

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-66 are pending in this application.

Claims 21-66 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 18-20 are rejected.

Claims 2, 5-8, and 12-17 are objected to.

Claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Rejection of Claims 9-11, 18, and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9-11, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claims 9-11, 18, and 19. The Office Action indicated that each of these dependent claims recite the limitation "said valve body" and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. With regard to rejected claims 9-11, 18, and 19, Applicant notes that these claims are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon independent claim 1 which has been amended to recite a valve body, therefore Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection of these claims. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection of claims 9-11, 18, and 19 and allowance thereof.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,657,943 to Booser et al. (hereafter "Booser '943") or U.S. Patent No. 3,466,478 to Gail (hereafter "Gail '478").

The Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 20. Rejected dependent claims 3, 4, 9-11, and 20 all depend, either directly or indirectly, upon rejected independent claim 1. Without admitting or denying whether claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, Applicant for the sole purpose of moving this case to allowance, has amended rejected independent claim 1 to include the limitation set forth in claim 2 of the application. The Office Action has indicated that claim 2 of the application is objected to but would be allowable if it was amended into independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant maintains that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, and 20 has been obviated by amendment. Removal of the rejection and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Matter

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 21-66 are allowed, and for further indicating that claims 2, 5-8, 12-17, 18, and 19 would also be allowable if the respective objections and/or rejections were fully addressed. Applicant believes that all issues have been fully addressed and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

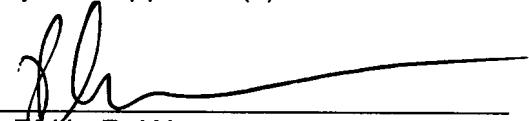
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks the claims 1 and 3-66, as amended, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

WARN PARTNERS, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By:


Philip R. Warn
Reg. No. 32775

P.O. Box 70098
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 364-4300

Dated: Dec 11, 2007

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